

# FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 8, No. 1

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

January 6, 2006

## Regional command stands down at Miramar

Story by Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Flags emblazoned with color will flutter around unbending Marines formed for parade in desert tan while band members perform for attendees alongside uniformed military spectators. All will witness the end of an era of guardianship at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and the beginning of a new Marine Corps organizational structure with a unique and joint ceremony.

Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area will conduct a deactivation ceremony today at 3 p.m. on the flight line parade area during which Brig. Gen. Carl B. Jensen, commander, MCABWA, will case the unit's colors for the final time.

Simultaneously, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar will conduct a change of command during the ceremony where Jensen will relinquish command of the air station to Col. Paul C. Christian, chief of staff, MCAS Miramar.

The history of MCABWA extends as far back as Oct. 4, 1957, when the Secretary of the Navy established and activated the command. Serving in a dual-duty capacity at the discretion of the commandant of the Marine Corps, the commanding general of MCABWA simultaneously served as the commanding general of MCAS El Toro. The commander's mission was to exercise command and provide support services and facilities to



The office door of the commander at Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area will close for the final time today. Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht

aviation units of the operating forces within the western United States.

Several facilities, some known by different names over the years, have fallen under MCABWA command: MCAS El Toro,

MCAS Tustin, MCAS Yuma and MCAS Camp Pendleton.

In 1999 following the closing of MCAS El Toro and MCAS Tustin, MCABWA migrated to MCAS Miramar and assumed command of the air station.

MCABWA also continued to encompass MCAS Yuma and MCAS Camp Pendleton.

MCABWA has had 32 commanders since its establishment and its first commander, Brig. Gen. F.H. Wirsig, a decorated

Marine aviator, who passed away July 19, 1981. Today, as MCABWA's last commander, Jensen will close a chapter in Marine Corps history that began nearly a half century ago, setting the stage for a new legacy.

## Pace vows U.S. military ready for challenges of 2006

Story by Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The U.S. armed forces are prepared to handle whatever challenges arise in 2006, the nation's top general vowed today in an interview from Iraq.

"We'll assess the situation and do the best we can with what we have at hand and be successful the way our nation needs us to

be," Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said on ABC's "This Week" program.

Pace said the U.S. goal is to ensure Iraqi armed forces and police are capable of defending their own land. "And they're getting much more capable of doing that," he said. He warned that many insurgents are not going to quit the battlefield. "They're going to be either killed or captured by coalition forces or by Iraqi armed forces," Pace said.

However, he added, a large number of potential insurgents might change their minds when they see the Iraqi government taking shape after recent successful elections. "As they see their own armed forces taking over responsibility in their country, they will see that being a part of the future of Iraq is going to be much better than becoming part of the insurgency," Pace said.

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## Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



74°/57°  
Today



74°/58°  
Saturday



74°/57°  
Sunday

Marines and  
their big  
green  
machines  
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Refuelers  
keep rotary  
aircraft in the  
fight  
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# Cold, flu symptoms reviewed

Story by Navy Lt. Aaron D. Stavinoha, MD

Branch Medical Clinic Miramar

This is the season for sniffles, sneezing, sore throats, headaches, and yes, the dreaded flu. For those with children, this is the time of year they begin walking around with a constant runny nose that doesn't seem to end until summer. Since "snot season" is upon us, it is appropriate to review the difference between the common cold and the flu. There is nothing worse than feeling miserable and waiting for an eternity in a waiting room to see a healthcare provider only to be told, "You've got a cold, there's nothing I can do for you." The following are answers to the most common questions regarding cold/flu season that medical professionals are constantly asked.

Both the flu and the common cold are respiratory illnesses. However, totally different viruses cause them. Although they can have very similar symptoms, generally cold symptoms are much milder than the flu. Common cold symptoms include sore throat, stuffy nose, runny nose, cough, and sometimes a low-grade fever. Flu symptoms often cause a much higher fever, chills, body aches, loss of appetite, fatigue, sore throat and headache.

Influenza viruses A and B are responsible for causing the classic flu. Type A is primarily what causes the outbreaks that occur annually. These viruses constantly change and produce different strains. These different strains that cause the flu differ from year to year.

Each year scientists predict which strain they feel will be the biggest threat for the next year, and the flu vaccine is developed off of this strain. It is an inactivated vaccine (contains killed virus, not live virus) and therefore cannot give someone the flu. After receiving the flu vaccine, it takes around two weeks to fully develop the antibodies needed to fight off the flu.

Usually diagnosis can be made based on your symptoms. Rarely, the specific flu virus you have may be identified through a blood test or a nasal or throat swab.

Unfortunately, there are no medicines to "kill" the flu bug. However, there are some antivirals that can reduce the duration and severity of flu symptoms. These antivirals need to be started within two days of onset of symptoms.

The earlier in flu season someone receives the vaccine, the better protected they are.

All children over six months of age can get the flu vaccine.

Over 250 different viruses can cause the common cold. It would be almost impossible for scientists to create a vaccine that protects against all of the cold viruses. Also, colds are minor infections that usually come and go with no serious complications.

Since there is no cure, the best thing to do is use an old-fashioned remedy such as drinking plenty of fluids, sipping warm soup and taking hot showers to help break up nasal congestion. Over-the-counter cold medicines can help offer some relief. Decongestants can help make breathing easier by shrinking the swollen membranes in the nose. Saline nasal spray also helps open the breathing passages. Remember, children should not take aspirin. Cough syrups with DM in the title will help relieve that hacking cough and chest congestion.

If you have a common cold or the flu, an antibiotic will not do anything. Viruses cause colds and flu. Antibiotics kill bacteria, not viruses.

Both the flu and colds are transmitted the same exact way through microscopic droplets from an infected person's respiratory system. Every time someone sneezes or coughs, droplets are sprayed all over nearby surfaces. Even if they sneeze or cough into their hand they contaminate everything they touch. Handwashing is the only sure thing to help prevent contaminating yourself. Use an alcohol-based sanitizer if there is no access to water. Kids seem to use the gel much more often than they will wash their hands. Also, try to begin the habit of coughing or sneezing onto a shirtsleeve instead of hands. Wash any shared surfaces such as office telephones and keyboards.

Have you ever watched children while they are playing or socializing? They are always in each other's faces. They sneeze and cough on one another without a care in the world, and they simply do not like washing their hands. Add all this up and you have kids just constantly passing germs back and forth. Even more importantly, unlike adults who get a bad cold and feel wiped out; children don't get as sick, so they continue to spread the virus while they are very contagious.

A well-nourished immune system is the best bet. Dark green foods like spinach are loaded with vitamins A and C. Salmon is a great source of Omega-3 fatty acids that fight inflammation. Yogurt may help stimulate the immune system. In addition, regular exercise helps boost the immune system. Studies show that those who exercise have less severe symptoms and recover quicker than those who do not exercise.

## Don't talk and drive

Story by Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Using a cell phone while driving on any Department of Defense installation is prohibited and getting caught at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar could result in a loss of driving privileges on all DoD installations.

According to part 634.25 of the National Defense Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision Installation Traffic Codes, effective Dec. 1, 2005, vehicle operators on a DOD installation and operators of government owned vehicles shall not use cell phones unless the vehicle is safely parked or unless they are using a hands-free device.

The only device authorized is a hands-free cell phone. Wearing portable headphones, earphones, or other listening devices is prohibited.

According to Cpl. Wesley Sprague, traffic court clerk, PMO, MCAS Miramar, driving while using a cell phone is one

of the top three reasons drivers get pulled over at Miramar. Driving without a military decal and moving violations such as running a stop light account for the majority of the rest.

A driver who fails to obey the standards set by the installation traffic codes will receive a citation from the Provost Marshal's Office and lose points off their installation driving record, which could result in a suspension of installation driving privileges.

"Approximately thirty percent of all the tickets we receive are from people using a cell phone while they're driving," said Sprague, a Vineland, N.J., native. "This type of offense does not rate a warning, and if you get pulled over for talking on a cell phone you will get a ticket."

According to the installation traffic codes, using a cell phone in a moving vehicle impairs driving and prevents drivers from recognizing emergency signals, alarms, announcements, the approach of vehicles and human speech.

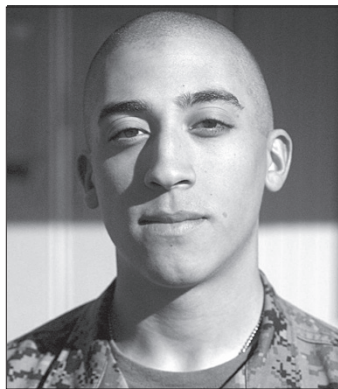
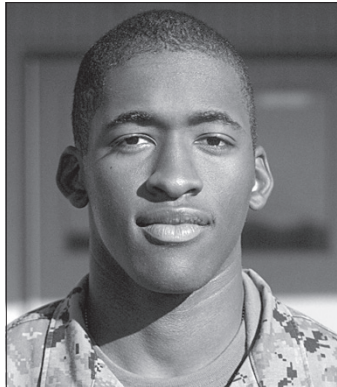
## MIRAMARKS

"What can you do to prepare for tax season?"

**PFC. EDWARD POWELL**

Radio Technician  
MTACS-38

"Ensure all finances are organized and in order. Prepare all your receipts or proofs of purchases and bonuses that may effect your taxable income."



**LANCE CPL. DAVID CAMARANO**

System Administrator  
MTACS-38

"Seek financial advice from the tax center. They know a lot about what to do. Also ensure all tax details are accounted for."

## DFAS sends year-end statements

Story by Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Service members, military retirees and annuitants and federal civilian employees paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service can expect to receive their 2005 tax statements by mail soon, a DFAS official told the American Forces Press Service Dec. 28.

In fact, most retirees and annuitants already may have received theirs, with the last hard-copy mailings slated for Dec. 31, the official confirmed. Mailing for

active duty Army, Navy and Air Force W-2 forms won't begin until Jan. 24, but service members can access their forms on myPay beginning Jan. 21.

W-2 mailings for reservists from the Army, Navy and Air Force began Jan. 4. Active duty and reserve Marines can check their mailboxes after Jan. 12 or access their myPay accounts beginning Jan. 10. Mailing for DoD civilians' W-2s began Jan. 3, and the forms will be posted on myPay starting Jan. 2.

DFAS clients who have never set up their myPay accounts or have forgotten their PIN numbers can set up or get new ones through the myPay Web site.

## FLIGHT JACKET

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**MAJ. GEN. SAMUEL T. HELLAND**  
Commanding General  
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



**BRIG. GEN. CARL B. JENSEN**  
Commander MCABWA  
Commanding General  
MCAS Miramar

**Maj. Curtis Hill**  
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**Capt. Al Eskalis**  
Public Affairs Deputy Director

**Gunnery Sgt. Matthew W. Sewell**  
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**Sgt. John L. Zimmer III**  
Internal Information Officer

**Cpl. Paul Leicht**  
Layout

# England relinquishes post as Secretary of the Navy

DoD News Release

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Acting Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England has relinquished his post as secretary of the Navy, Defense Department officials announced Dec. 29, 2005.

He will continue to serve as acting deputy secretary of defense, officials said.

England has served as Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's deputy since May, when former Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz left the Pentagon to head up the World Bank. Over two terms as Navy secretary, England served a total of 48 months.

His terms were separated by his service as the first deputy secretary of the Homeland Security Department. For the past eight months, he has served in both the Navy post and as acting deputy secretary of defense.

"It has been a profound honor to serve with the magnificent men and women of the United States Navy and Marine Corps," England said in a statement issued by the Pentagon. "I am most privileged to be able to continue serving our armed forces as the deputy to Secretary Rumsfeld."

The Honorable Donald Winter, who was confirmed by the Senate last month, was sworn in as the 74th secretary of the Navy on Jan. 3.

# Miramar Tax Center to open end of January

Story by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Tax Center is scheduled to open Jan. 23, to provide service members and their families with free tax services.

The tax center will only provide service members who are E-5 and below with services during the first week of the tax season. Beginning Jan. 30, all service members will have access to these services.

Services that are provided by the tax center include tax advice, tax preparation and assistance. The center is also capable of providing tax services for service members who have income tax returns that have not been filed for up to three years.

If a service member decides to complete their own taxes, they may take their completed tax forms to the tax center where staff members will electronically transfer them to the Internal Revenue Service.

The tax center will not provide services to individuals with personally owned businesses or corporations.

Staff members at the tax center are sufficiently qualified to deal with most tax issues through yearly training received

from the IRS' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. The staff is then certified after completion of the course and upon passing a final exam. They are then required to take state tax classes. Some of the staff has received civilian training from H&R Block.

Most civilian companies that offer tax services are not knowledgeable when dealing with military tax issues and often charge from \$100 to \$200 for their services.

The VITA program at MCAS Miramar is responsible for returning more than \$6.5 million to service members and their families while saving an estimated total of \$782,026 in tax preparation fees.

"This program has continually proved itself to be a major quality of life benefit enjoyed by our entire military community," said Gen. Michael W. Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, in a White Letter addressed to the Marine Corps.

The tax center is located at Building 6250 and is open Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The center's hours of operation will change from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., when the tax season begins to come to an end April 15. The center will also be open to service members during the first three Saturdays of the tax season.

have a central government with an army and police better trained and equipped by that central government and are loyal to it."

With encouragement from governments around the world, the Iraqi people will find a way to use the democracy that's in their hands for the betterment of their own people, Pace said. "I think democracy is what it is everywhere in the world," he said. "It's not a clean, precise process, but one that is the best hope for all of us. It's a way to be representative of the needs of all the people."

Pace also vowed that politics will not affect military commanders' decisions in determining troop levels in Iraq.

"I don't expect to get any political pressure because I expect to be who I am — the military advisor to the president, secretary of defense and the National Security Council," Pace said. "I expect of myself to give the best military advice."

# U.S. Naval Academy looking for Marines

Story by Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The United States Naval Academy is looking for a few good Marines.

The USNA is accepting applications from enlisted active duty and reserve Marines.

According to Marine Administration Message 465/05, applicants must submit a completed application, enclosed in the MARADMIN, and all supporting materials, including a commanding officer's recommendation, to the superintendent of the USNA by Jan. 30.

In order to meet the basic requirements for admission to the academy, applicants must be U.S. citizens, have good moral character, be at least 17 years old or younger than 23 on July 1 of the academic year applied for, unmarried, not pregnant and have no legal dependants.

A combined score of 1200 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, with a minimum of 600 in math and 600 in verbal portions of the test, is also necessary. For the American College Test, a combined score of 52, with a minimum score of 26 in math and 26 in English, is required.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to have SAT or ACT scores prior to applying for admission to the USNA or the Naval Academy Preparatory School.

Commanding officers with Marines who exhibit superior performance of duty and potential to serve as officers should encourage those Marines to apply.

Transfer orders to the USNA will be issued by Headquarters Marine Corps on or about May 1.

For more information on how to apply, call (410) 293-1000 or visit [www.usna.edu](http://www.usna.edu). Pre-applications may be submitted online at [www.usna.edu/admissions/pre-application](http://www.usna.edu/admissions/pre-application).

**To report fraud, waste or abuse, call (858) 577-1245 and please include a description of the abuse, the original source of the incident, any proof of evidence, location, date and time.**

**PACE,**  
continued from page 1

In an effort to get the right people back into the Iraqi armed forces, the Iraqi government is reaching out to Sunni former military officers, in the ranks of major and below, and enlisted folks who want to rejoin the armed forces of their country, Pace noted. The Iraqi military and police forces must be inclusive if the country's fledgling democracy is going to be successful.

Specifically, Pace said, they need to include more Sunnis. "There's room for improvement," he said, "and I think the Iraq government understands that and is working toward that goal." In regards to local militias, the general said they need to become a part of the standing army or police force, or they need to disband.

"We've got to be careful. They have loyalties not necessarily for the central government," Pace said. "That's why it's so important that you



# GSE Marines support aviation mission

Story by Staff Sgt. Raymie G. Cruz

*3rd MAW Combat Correspondent*

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz – As Marines train in the Arizona desert for their upcoming deployment to Iraq, one part of the training includes constant maintenance of the aircraft.

Ground Support Equipment Marines with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, are tasked with the demanding job of providing vital equipment needed to keep the squadron flying.

“Without us out here getting equipment around and doing our part, the mechanics would not be able to do theirs,” said Cpl. Adam Hughes, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, GSE tool room, HMLA-169. “It’s not glamorous, but we do our part and that helps keep the aircraft flying.”

The Marines with GSE come from different Military Occupational Specialties within HMLA-169.

Although they are from various jobs, their MOS experience helps them to fill their roles in GSE.

“It sometimes helps being an airframe mechanic by trade, because, at times, I already know what they need,” said Cpl. Richard Garcia, airframe mechanic and GSE hazardous materials noncommissioned officer, HMLA-169. “By knowing what they need to do the job, it can speed up the process.”

Their MOSs vary from airframe mechanics to crew chiefs, but, in GSE, they are the suppliers, trackers and deliverers of specialty tools and equipment for each aircraft in HMLA-169.

“Each aircraft has equipment that is specific to it, and we ensure that the Marines working on the equipment get what they need,” said Garcia. “Gear is constantly going down, and it can sometimes be hectic trying to run equipment back and forth to units, but that’s what we do.”

As part of the GSE crew, the hazardous materials NCO plays another vital role in the maintenance of the aircraft.



**Ground Support Equipment Marines support Marine aviation missions at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma during Exercise Desert Talon in December 2005. Photo by Staff Sgt. Raymie Cruz**

“As a HazMat Marine, I store any hazardous materials that the unit needs and, in certain cases, I will order other materials and clean up any spills that may be made in the work areas,” said Garcia. “If we don’t have it, I will get it from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16. They also dispose of the waste for us when needed.”

The GSE Marines are responsible for more than 1,800 tool accounts throughout HMLA-169, and, during peak flight hours, there will always be a need for GSE to be on hand.

“As long as flights are going out, there is a constant need for maintenance, and we will be here waiting for the call,” said Hughes.

# ‘Healing Field’ memorial comes to San Diego

Story by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver

MCAS MIRAMAR Combat Correspondent

The Healing Field Organization decided to establish a chapter in San Diego on account of the rich military history in the area.

San Diego will be the largest city involved with the non-profit organization.

The nationwide organization was originally created in Sandy, Utah, to honor the fallen heroes who died during the terrorist attacks in September 2001, first responders and coalition forces across the globe who fight for freedom.

“We are blessed to live in this country,” said Dr. Sarah M. Young, program chairperson, Healing Field, San Diego. “This gets the community together to honor the people who fought for us.”

The organization hosts a Healing Field, which is a temporary flag memorial that is held annually during the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Numerous American flags are put on display at the memorial in remembrance of the lives lost during the attacks. When each flag is posted, the sponsors name is read off along with a short story about a victim of the attack.

Foreign countries that contributed to the war on terrorism each had their nations flag posted at the memorial.

The local organization plans to host the first Healing Field in San Diego later this year in 2006 and nearly 3,000 flags are expected to be on display at the memorial.

The organization also runs a variety of community events throughout the year.

The San Diego chapter is currently looking for sponsors and people to volunteer to be members of the committee and organization.

Each flag is sold and used in the dis-

play of the memorial. Scout troops, military clubs and units are welcomed to sell the flags to sponsors while earning a commission for their organization.

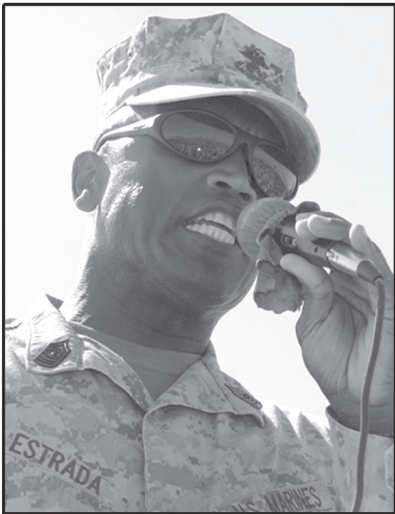
Anybody can sponsor the memorial by buying a flag from the organization. Each flag is displayed in the memorial.

For more information, call (858) 860-0461 or visit their Web site at [www.healingfield.org/sandiego](http://www.healingfield.org/sandiego).

**Many small American flags stand under the sun to create a “Healing Field,” a temporary flag memorial held annually during the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. Photo courtesy of the Healing Field Organization**



## SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES!



MCAS Miramar needs servicemembers from all ranks, occupations, experiences, backgrounds and upbringings to participate in the Guest Speaker Program. If you are interested, call the Community Relations Department at (858) 577-4333.

*An appreciative audience awaits*



# Marines man full-service refueling station in desert

Story by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

*3rd MAW Combat Correspondent*

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz – Military aircraft are amazing machines, capable of carrying out missions the world over, but one constant factor impacts the performance of their assigned tasks ... fuel.

The Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, Army National Guard, have made themselves the solution to the inherent limits on the Marine and Army aircraft participating in Exercise Desert Talon 1-06 by setting up a Forward Arming and Refueling Point in the middle of the Arizona desert.

The training exercise was conducted to prepare the Marine and Army aviation units for their upcoming deployment to Iraq.

“We’re out here for Iraq. It’s good for us to train in the middle of a desert environment,” said Cpl. Jeffrey H. Barenbaum, bulk fuels specialist, MWSS-374. “There has been adversity, there has been problems, but I love that stuff.”

The two problems the FARP Marines and soldiers faced commonly were vehicles stuck in the desert sands and equipment breaking, according to Barenbaum.

“The sand is really deep, so when we move the trucks they get stuck,” said Barenbaum. “The gear kept going down and the maintenance was something we didn’t plan on, but if we do these things here, then we’ll know how to do it in Iraq.”

The purpose of the FARP is to refuel aircraft, but there is an additional element to the team of Marines and soldiers.

“People think that all we do is just refuel aircraft, but it’s not,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher A. Colson, convoy commander, MWSS-374. “We also have to go out on tactical convoys.”

All of the vehicles, gear, fuel and personnel have to be moved from point A to point B to operate the FARP, explained Colson.

“While on the convoy, we must keep aware of our dispersion to the refueling point and watch out for Improvised Explosive Devices,” said Colson.

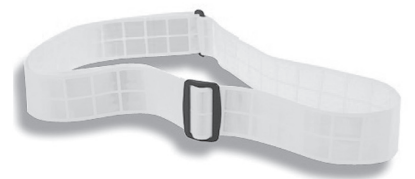
Safety is the number one concern during fueling operations, said Barenbaum.

“When the operations are going, there are 5,000 gallons of fuel nearby. Any little spark, and you’re gone,” said Barenbaum. “We pretty much got it down after two weeks out here, especially with as many problems we’ve had to overcome. I definitely think we’re ready to run a FARP in Iraq.”



Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, prepare to insert a fueling hose into a CH-53, Dec. 13,- at a Forward Arming and Refueling Point during Exercise Desert Talon. The goal of Desert Talon was to perform joint operations in a desert environment in preparation for an upcoming deployment to Iraq. *Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich*

## Get Noticed by Motorists...



## NOT BY PMO

**MARINE CORPS ORDER 5100.19E STATES:**

“During periods of reduced visibility, and before morning colors and after evening colors, personnel shall wear retro-reflective clothing, vest or belt when conducting physical training or exercising on or near roadways.”

It's not just a good idea  
**IT'S THE LAW**



# M-16 now longest serving issued rifle for U.S.

Story by Lance Cpl. Brandon L. Roach

3rd MAW Combat Correspondent

Although the U.S. military has gone through several different rifles in the last 200 years, throughout its extensive history the M-16 has been the longest lasting, issued service rifle for all branches of the United States military.

The original XM16E1 assault rifle was designed in 1957 by Eugene Stoner, a Marine Corps veteran, as a response to the use of the German Sturmgewher, a rifle that could fire medium sized bullets over a long range at high speeds during World War II.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara halted the production of the M-14 in 1964 and the U.S. Army ordered 85,000 of the XM16E1 for experimental use and was pleased with the result. They started calling it the M-16. The Air Force then officially accepted its first 19,000 United States Rifle, caliber 5.56 mm, M-16, a modified version of the AR-15, as found on [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org).

The rifles the Air Force received were slightly different than the ones the Army was experimenting with, because it had no forward assist on it. The forward assist is used to push a round into the chamber during a reload in case it is stuck in the chamber due to a build up of carbon.

By 1965, the M-16 received so much attention that most of the flaws the Army reported had been fixed. At this time, the

M-16 was being introduced in high numbers. However it did not perform to the soldiers' standards while using it in combat and soon gained a bad reputation.

The Pentagon had stated they wanted all the ammunition to be made with the new, finer grade ball powder. This did not coincide with the claim that Colt Industries made saying the rifle never had to be cleaned. The reason is the new powder was much dirtier than the old powder used in ammunition.

After Colt installed forward assists on all versions of the M-16, against the advice of Eugene Stoner saying that it would just complicate the use of the weapon, a second version of the rifle was created and called the M16A1 service rifle. This new model, however, still had its problems because soldiers were told once again that this new model never had to be cleaned due to its space-aged construction. When the weapons started jamming during field use the debates over the M-16 were once again re-opened throughout the U.S. military.

This was quickly solved by the production of cleaning kits and cleaning instructions that were distributed to the soldiers. This made the M16A1 work more efficiently and the complaints about the rifle soon came few and far between.

In 1977, with armor improving throughout the world, the U.S. military started to complain about the low

penetration that the current ammunition had. After tests of different styles of ammunition made by several countries, the Belgian SS-109, a 5.56 mm round based off the U.S. cartridges, was finally accepted. The only difference with this round was that it had a steel tip. Only one drawback was reported - the round had to be developed with a 1-in-7 barrel twist rather than the 1-in-9 twist the M16A1 had.

This change brought one of the most current models of the M-16 to the U.S. military. The M16A2 service rifle that has been used without major modifications over the past 25 years.

This model has many features that the others did not such as vented hand guards that keep the barrel cooler, a re-designed bolt carrier group that allows for a smoother firing round and a hollowed buttstock the field cleaning kit can be stored in.

"The rifle is still very temperamental and jams frequently which could be the difference between life and death on the battlefield," said SSgt. John P. Vera armory staff noncommissioned officer in charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

With a long reign of service, the M16 has seen its share of battlefields and drill movements, raids and range shooting and will go into the history books as one of the most important weapons that changed the face of modern warfare.



Marines with 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing practice their marksmanship skills during Exercise Desert Talon at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. Various models of the M-16, including the M16A2 and M16A4 used by Marines, have served in the hands of service members, making it the longest serving rifle in U.S. history. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Jonathan Teslevich*





**William G. Huston, working foreman, Miramar Stables, uses a tractor to spread crumb rubber over the main arena at the Miramar Stables Oct. 17, 2005. Horses sometimes get injured due to walking on the hard surfaces at the stables. The crumb rubber will make the footing softer, which will benefit the horse by easing tension on the horses' legs and causing less injury. Photo by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver**

# FHRC provides stables with surface material

**Story by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver**

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

With the installation of new crumb rubber surface material for the main arena at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar base stables, horses and their riders have been enjoying the benefits of a safe riding surface while reducing the chance of injury.

The Flying Hooves Riding Club, a private club recognized by MCAS Miramar, used funds received in 2005 from Andrew G. Acho, director of Environmental Outreach & Strategy, Ford Motor Company, to purchase crumb rubber footing material for the main arena at the base stables.

The FHRC is an all-volunteer horse-riding club based at the Miramar Stables. The club educates patrons on horsemanship, which is the skill of riding

and handling horses. The club also hosts events for the stables where riders can exhibit their skills. Through these events, money is raised for the stables.

"It's a great pleasure for FHRC to once again be in the position to make a contribution to the base stables," said Mimi Thomas-Brooker, key volunteer coordinator, Miramar Marine Corps Community Services. "Our members strive to make the stables a better place for riders and horses through donations of goods, as well as planning and staging events for service members and their families."

Crumb rubber is shredded rubber that is recycled from used tires and other rubber molded products. It is commonly mixed with asphalt to create Rubber-Modified Asphalt, which is a more capable form of asphalt.

The stables will be using the crumb rubber as

footing material in the main arena.

The crumb rubber will be mixed into the sand to create a soft footing area. With this addition, it will be a safer riding environment for the horses and riders.

"This material will markedly improve the safety and aesthetics for those who ride and work in the arena, both human and animal," said Brooker. "This will make the ride more comfortable for the horse and rider. The riders will be safer as there are less chances for the horses to be injured," said Brooker. "If a horse goes down, the rider goes with him."

With the addition of cushioned soil, horse riding can be a safer and more enjoyable experience.

"By preventing these injuries to horses, people will have longer time to enjoy their hobby," concluded Brooker.



# Poinsettia Bowl a success for San Diego

Story by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

SAN DIEGO – The first San Diego Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl was hosted Dec. 22, 2005, at Qualcomm Stadium when the United States Naval Academy defeated Colorado State University, 51 - 30.

Holiday Bowl organizers introduced the concept in a press conference after the National Collegiate Athletic Association permitted San Diego to host a second post-season football game.

The Holiday Bowl has contributed more than \$350 million to the San Diego economy since its inauguration in 1978. Organizers expect the Poinsettia Bowl to benefit an additional \$20 million to the economy annually.

One dollar for every ticket sale was donated to Make-A-Wish Foundation of San Diego, who served as the events beneficiary.

The poinsettia has been the official symbol of the Holiday Bowl since its inauguration in 1978. Committee members voted for the name, as it is a widely known symbol of the holidays.

The game marked the first time the Navy participated in three consecutive bowl games and set an NCAA bowl record for most yards gained by both teams with 1,183.

The NCCA has approved Poinsettia Bowls to continue until 2010.



Defensive End Jesse Nading (Number 59) of the Colorado State “Rams” blocks an attempted field goal by place kicker Joey Bullen (Number 39) of the U.S. Naval Academy’s “Midshipmen” in the inaugural San Diego Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl Dec. 22. The Midshipmen defeated Colorado State with a score of 51-30, setting an academy record of a third consecutive year bowl game appearance. *U.S. Navy photo by Photographer’s Mate 1st Class Richard J. Brunson*



# C-130 pilots lead team of professionals in Iraq

Story by Cpl. James D. Hamel

*2nd Marine Aircraft Wing*

AL ASAD, Iraq — Like a quarterback who leads a team of many different positions, C-130 pilots lead a diverse aircrew, absorbing input and making reasoned decisions.

Because of that unique role, the success of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252's mission is dependent on the abilities of its pilots not just to fly the aircraft, but to effectively lead a group of Marines with very different experiences and individual jobs.

"Whenever more than one Marine is gathered in a room, one of them is a leader," said Maj. Glenn Vogel, a native of Virginia Beach, Va., and the executive officer for the VMGR-252 detachment, Marine Aircraft Group 14, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, in Iraq. "We're all taught from the beginning that all Marines are leaders, regardless of what their job is."

The pilots in VMGR-252 aren't dictatorial, according to Sgt. Doug Rumick, a crew chief and Aurora, Ill., native. The pilots are the head of a crew which includes loadmasters and crew chiefs, each with their own area of expertise. They view their crew as assets in their quest to make sound decisions.

"(Flying the KC-130J) is very much a team effort, especially out here," said Capt. Eric P. Rannenberg, a Bowling Green, Ky., native and pilot with VMGR-252. "I treat each crew member as an expert in their field, because that's what they are. No single person is always going to have the best solution. By taking information from each person in the crew, you have five or six brains working on a problem instead of one. Your decisions are more informed if you have the crew to back you up."

The KC-130J is equipped with an advanced radio system that allows each member of the crew to move around and do their work without losing communication with the rest of the group. During VMGR-252's missions in Iraq, every decision is scrutinized, especially those deviating from the original flight plan. They're constantly asking for alternative ideas and second opinions.



**Captains David M. Naeher and Eric P. Rannenberg, pilots with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252, Marine Aircraft Group 14, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, prepare for takeoff, Dec. 30, at Camp Al Taqaddum, Iraq. The pilots briefly landed in Al Taqaddum to refuel for upcoming missions. *Photo by Cpl. James D. Hamel***

"Our pilots are awesome," said Rumick. "Everyone has their job and the pilots realize that. I've been flying with some of these guys for four years, so we can almost read each other's minds."

Like all naval aviators, C-130 pilots learn the fundamentals of flight before training in their particular aircraft. The Marine Corps recently updated its C-130 fleet to the KC-130J model, so most of the pilots of VMGR-252 initially learned how to fly the older C-130. Though learning how to fly a different aircraft added a little to the workload of the pilots, many are happy with the transition.

"I learned on the (older) models," said Capt. David M. Naeher, a pilot with VMGR-252 and Bradenton, Fla., native. "But on the 'J' model, the avionics are newer, and it is definitely a pilot's airplane."

The two pilots serve different functions within the cockpit.

The co-pilot serves as second-in-command to the aircraft commander, who is always the senior pilot. Rannenberg, who serves in both positions, depending on the mission, said the squadron tries to pair junior pilots with more experienced Marines as aircraft commanders. This, he said, is mainly for the benefit of the younger Marine.

"Every co-pilot is an aircraft commander in training," he said. "By pairing a junior guy with someone more experienced, the junior Marine gets to learn by example. It makes the whole operation go smoother."

He added that the main difference is that the final decision is ultimately made by the aircraft commander.



## Briefs

### Miramar Movies

The Bob Hope Theater is located in Building 2242, and will be featuring the following movies. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, call 577-4143 or log on to [www.mccsmiramar.com](http://www.mccsmiramar.com).

**Friday:**  
6:30 p.m. Yours, Mine and Ours (PG)  
9:00 p.m. Walk the Line (PG-13)

**Saturday:**  
6:30 p.m. Chicken Little (G)  
9:00 p.m. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (PG-13)

**Sunday:**  
1:00 p.m. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (PG-13)  
6:30 p.m. \*The Legend of Zorro (PG)

**Wednesday:**  
6:30 p.m. Rent (PG-13)

**Thursday:**  
2:00 p.m. Yours, Mine and Ours (PG)  
6:30 p.m. Walk the Line (PG-13)

\* Indicates the last showing for that film

### Junior Basketball

The last day to sign up for junior basketball camp is Jan. 14 starting at 9 a.m. at the Main Gym.

Cost is \$40, which includes one NBA reversible jersey, a trophy and pictures for the child to keep.

The camp is open to all children ages 6 through 14.

For more information, call 577-4136 or 577-6530.

### Religious Services

The Chaplain's Office is located in Building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain's Office at 577-1333.

**Sunday:**  
9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service  
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist  
**Wednesday:**  
7 p.m. Baptist service  
**Monday-Friday:**  
11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass  
**Jewish:**  
7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD  
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

### Flu Shots Now Available

Flu shots are currently available at the MCAS Miramar Family Practice Clinic for military family members (adults must have military I.D. and children must be at least six months old) from 8 to 10 a.m.

Active duty personnel (with military ID) can receive flu shots at the Branch Medical Clinic (Preventive Medicine) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Armed Forces Bowling

The Armed Forces Bowling Championships begin today in Reno, N.V., and continue through Jan. 14.

Interested Marines or Sailors should contact the Athletic Office to become a participant. For more information, call 577-4127.

### Miramar Youth Sports

The Miramar Youth Center is hosting a Junior Olympic Skills program Feb. 11 at Mills Park from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The program allows boys and girls to compete separately and may advance through three levels of competition.

Every child has the opportunity to showcase their athletic ability in four sports: basketball, soccer, tennis and track and field.

The program is designed to encourage youth participation in sports while promoting sportsmanship. All participants must fill out a registration/waiver/liability form and provide a copy of a valid birth certificate or baptismal record for age verification.

For more information, call the Youth Center at 577-4136.

### Impounded Vehicles

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information contact the Provost Marshal's Office at 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:	Vehicle:	License:
1994 Pontiac Grand Am	CA/3STS043	Unk. Dodge RV	CA/4JVJ367
1994 Nissan Maxima	TX/X26MFL	1973 Chevy Nova	TX/447CVJ
2000 Mitsubishi Galant	CA/3TQY718	1987 Toyota Celica	CA/2GUH953
1984 Chevy Corvette	CO/754JZW	1973 Datsun 240Z	CA/4RGC082
1990 Chrysler New Yorker	WI/402CPD	2001 Ford Focus	CA/5NYB483
1997 Ford Mustang	CA/3WAL501	1987 Dodge Colt	CA/2PTS599

# FLIGHT JACKET CLASSIFIEDS